

covered with cypress, magnolia, sub-aquatic plants and shrubs, yet it is quite healthy, excepting near the head of the bay, where the Escambia river, coming down from Alabama, empties. Here it has been notoriously sickly always, notwithstanding the temperature and moisture are the same as they are lower down the bay, and the extent of marsh only a trifle greater.

My present object does not make it necessary for me to describe particularly the topography of the Delta of the Mississippi, further than to state, what every one knows, that it consists of alluvial deposits, with an abundant and luxuriant vegetable growth.—Such a condition of things, in so hot a climate, might, *a priori*, be claimed by the miasmatist as the very focus of miasms; but let us see what are the opinions of some distinguished medical gentlemen, themselves believers in the doctrine of the miasmatic origin of disease, upon this subject.

The inhabitants of the Balize, writes Dr. DRAKE, suffer much less from miasmatic diseases than those who reside along the rivers of the interior of Louisiana, notwithstanding vegetation, heat and moisture are as abundant at the Balize as more inland. This he and others attempt to explain, by supposing that the salt water of the Gulf waves prevents the extrication of miasmata at the Balize. The same reason is given for the comparative healthfulness of Key West; and also to explain why Fort Pike is less lia-